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JPMorgan Chase Foundation gives \$20,000 to i-STEM

The JPMorgan Chase Foundation has donated \$20,000 to support i-STEM, a statewide partnership to improve science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education in Idaho.

The money will help fund teacher institutes to be held this summer in Twin Falls, Boise, Coeur d'Alene and Idaho Falls. During the four-day, expense-paid workshops, Idaho teachers study specific topics such as robotics or energy, and learn to incorporate hands-on activities into their classrooms. They also receive continuing education credit.

"This donation will help us expand the number of i-STEM institutes and train more teachers, which in turn will help us reach more students," said Anne Seifert, Idaho National Laboratory's STEM coordinator and executive director of the i-STEM initiative. "JPMorgan Chase has been a strong supporter of the i-STEM concept, and this generous donation demonstrates its ongoing commitment to Idaho and its students."

i-STEM was created in 2009 as a way for organizations, universities, industry, government agencies and others throughout Idaho to coordinate and share STEM resources, and to have a greater impact on K-12 education in the state.

Members include Idaho National Laboratory (INL), the state universities, community colleges and technical schools, K-12 school districts, the Idaho Department of Education, Idaho State Board of Education, Idaho Department of Labor, Hewlett-Packard, Partners for Prosperity, Idaho Community Foundation, Micron, Idaho Power and others. More information is available at www.sde.idaho.gov/site/istem.

"Expanding STEM educational opportunities throughout the state will better prepare our students as the workforce of tomorrow," said Brian Stewart, vice president and community relations officer for Chase. "A well-prepared workforce is essential in creating and maintaining strong and healthy communities."

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